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WILLIAM THE CONQUEROR

Drawn from an engraved portrait in the British Museum

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ELEVEN CENTURIES OF THE REMOTE ANCESTRY OF THE ROCKWELL FAMILY

BY

DONALD SHUMWAY ROCKWELL

"

"A people which takes no pride in the noble achievements of remote ancestors will never achieve anything worthy to be remembered with pride by remote descendants."

Lord Macaulay.

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TO

LADY PETERSEN, NÉE ADA BELL TROWBRIDGE,
IN RECOGNITION OF HER SERVICES IN
GATHERING THE INFORMATION
CONTAINED IN THIS LITTLE VOLUME,
AT THE EXPENSE OF MUCH TIME AND EFFORT
BOTH IN THIS COUNTRY AND ABROAD,
THIS BOOK IS LOVINGLY DEDICATED

BY

DONALD SHUMWAY ROCKWELL,
WHO
HAS HEREIN EDITED HER MANUSCRIPTS.

FOREWORD



With the feeling that out of the thousands of names found in most genealogies, only those few connected with his or her own particular branch of ancestry are of any interest to each member of the family, the editor has purposely departed from the ordinary type of family tree in preparing this book for publication.

As stated in an announcement prior to publication, this book is not a directory of the names and addresses of thousands of Rockwells all over the world, but rather a unique and invaluable record of the early and illustrious ancestry of the family, which the editor feels sure will be of far greater interest to all the Rockwells than any dry recital of the names and relationships of living members of the family and deceased members of the past few generations. The following pages have been revised from the manuscripts left in the editor's hands by the late Lady Petersen, who collected this data in several countries of Europe, where her long, patient search of archives and records made the task both laborious and expensive. As a result of her labors, the Rockwell family

ANCESTRY OF THE ROCKWELL FAMILY

comes into possession of a priceless heritage, a noble lineage of the royal blood of England and France, brave heroes of many a hard-won battle which more than once turned the tide of history. The entire Rockwell family are deeply indebted to Lady Petersen for the great service she has rendered them in tracing this remote ancestry.

By arranging the genealogy in the manner he has adopted, the editor has been able to make of it a neat and attractive book, free from the cumbersome list of names and awkward size which make the usual family history unwelcome to many people. Blank pages are supplied at the end of the book where each person may fill in the last few generations of his immediate ancestry and complete the lineal descent of his own particular branch of the family, avoiding in this way the inconvenience of handling a mass of uninteresting names.

D. S. R.



BRIEF SKETCH OF LADY PETERSEN



Lady Petersen, whose name before her marriage was Ada Bell Trowbridge, was born at Decatur, Illinois, August 10, 1853. Her father was Dr. Silas Thompson Trowbridge, Surgeon-in-Chief of the 3rd Division, 17th Army Corps, and later appointed United States Consul at Vera Cruz, Mexico, by President U. S. Grant, in which capacity he served for thirteen years. Her mother was Emeline Rockwell, who was born in Sharontown, Ohio, February, 5, 1831, and because her mother was a Rockwell, she became interested in the history of the family.

She was married in Decatur by the Reverend D. P. Bunn, on May 4, 1873, to Frederick Meriden Petersen, who was born in Hamburg, Germany, on August 21, 1844. Mr. Petersen was for a number of years Swedish and Norwegian Consul at Vera Cruz, Mexico, and was afterward Swedish and Norwegian Consul General to the Republic of Mexico. He had conferred upon him the honor of Knighthood and the title of Chevalier of the Royal Order of Vasa, and

ANCESTRY OF THE ROCKWELL FAMILY

was decorated with the Gold Cross and Ribbon of that order, which was accompanied by Letters Patent from the King and portraits of the King and Queen, all sent out to him at Vera Cruz, Mexico, for "distinguished and meritorious diplomatic services", by the Swedish man-of-war Balder, commanded by Captain Ulner, who is now Admiral in the Swedish Navy.

In the summer of 1877 Lady Petersen visited several countries of Europe in company with her husband, and while taking this trip spent a good portion of her time in collecting the information she desired in regard to the early ancestry of the Rockwell family, searching in obscure records for the connecting links of the lineage.

After the death of her husband, which occurred on July 28, 1899, Lady Petersen spent a great part of her later life at Torreon and Saltillo, Mexico, where she was often in the midst of stirring scenes in the various revolutions. Twice she and her relatives had to flee for their lives to El Paso, Texas, and finally, when Torreon was besieged in October, 1913, the whole family left for Berkeley, California. Thirty-one days were required to make the trip out of Mexico, which ordinarily took only sixteen hours. Bridges had to be built

ANCESTRY OF THE ROCKWELL FAMILY

across streams, roadbeds repaired, rails straightened and track laid before the train bearing the American fugitives could complete its long journey. The party suffered untold privations, hunger, hardships and exposure, as a result of which Lady Petersen died on the fifth day of December, 1913, two weeks after reaching Berkeley.



INTRODUCTION



There is a pretty suburb of the French city of Caen, in Normandy, called St. Julien, the territory of which was originally dependent on the fief of Monsenay, and belonged to Bertrand de Rocheville, who had feudal rights and powers like the Norman knights of England. From the de Rochevilles sprang the family of Rockwell, hence the name of Rockwell is of Norman origin.

The first of the name in England was Sir Ralph de Rocheville, one of the knights who accompanied the Empress Maude (Matilda of England) into England when she claimed the throne of that realm. Sir Ralph ultimately joined Henry II of England, and had a grant of three Knight's Fees of land in the County of York, upon which estate the Rockwells have continued to the present day, James Rockwell, Esq., of Rockwell Hall, Boroughbridge, County of York, being the representative of the family in England.

The last great act of the family which is recorded in English history is the rescuing

ANCESTRY OF THE ROCKWELL FAMILY

of the Earl of Northumberland and Lord Percy, the celebrated Hotspur, from the party of the Earl Douglas, at the battle of Halidon Hill, in the reign of King Henry IV, by Sir John Rockwell.

The Rockwells were very closely related to the Drakes, and made several voyages of discovery to America with them.

Early in the history of the Colonies the Rockwells settled in New England, especially in New York and Connecticut, where several of them played an important part in the War of the Revolution. From New England the family has spread throughout the United States until there are now members in nearly every town and city of the Union.



THE ROCKWELL ARMS

ARMS

Argent, upon a chief sable, three boars' heads,
couped, or, langued gules.

CREST

Upon a wreath of the colors of the shield,
or boar's head, as in the Arms.

MOTTO

Tout pour mon Dieu et mon roi

TRANSLATION OF THE MOTTO:

All for my God and my king

GENEALOGY



- 1st Rolf, the first Duke of Normandy, known in Latin as Rollo and in French as Rou, a Viking leader to whom many early exploits are attributed, was born about 860. He established the hardy race of Norsmen in France when he founded the settlement at Rouen, which afterward grew into the duchy of Normandy. After playing a very important part in the early development of Normandy, he died in 932.
- 2nd William Longsword, Duke of Normandy, son of Rolf, died in 943.
- 3rd Richard the Fearless, Duke of Normandy, son of William Longsword, reigned over Normandy fifty years and died in 996.
- 4th Richard the Good, Duke of Normandy, son of Richard the Fearless, enjoyed a reign of thirty years from 997 to 1027.
- 5th Duke Robert of Normandy, known as Robert the Magnificent, son of Richard the Good, died in the year 1035 while returning from a pilgrimage to Jerusalem.

ANCESTRY OF THE ROCKWELL FAMILY

- 6th William the Conqueror, or William the Great, son of Duke Robert of Normandy, was born in 1027. He was originally the Duke of Normandy and later King of England, enjoying the title of William I. He was a warrior and conqueror, a statesman, and an administrator, and was the strongest monarch who ever sat on the English throne. He married Matilda of Flanders, and died in 1087.

Freeman says of him: "As far as mortal man can guide the course of things when he is gone, the course of our national history since William's day has been the result of William's character and of William's acts. . . . He may worthily take his place as William the Great, alongside of Alexander, Constantine and Charles."

- 7th Henry I, King of England, known as the Scholar, the fourth and youngest son of William the Conqueror and Matilda of Flanders, was born in 1068. He was an energetic ruler, fond of peace, but a good fighter when the occasion demanded. He married Matilda, daughter of Malcolm and Margaret of Scotland, and great-granddaughter of Edmund Ironside. We find it said of him: "Every part of the Kingdom, and every branch of the government, local as well as imperial, felt the firm touch of Henry's well-directed hand."

"God give him the peace he loved," wrote the Archbishop of Rouen when King Henry died in 1135.

- 8th Empress Maude, or Matilda of England, daughter of Henry I of England and Matilda, married Geoffrey Plantagenet, Count of Anjou and Maine.

ANCESTRY OF THE ROCKWELL FAMILY

9th Henry II, King of England, first of the Plantagenets, son of Matilda of England and Geoffrey Plantagenet, was born in 1133. He married Eleanor of Aquitaine. The second Henry has been called the greatest prince of his time, for wisdom, virtue, and abilities. His reign "initiated the rule of law."

"The fabric of our judicial system, including the true origin of trial by jury as now practiced, dates from the 'Assize of Clarendon' (1166)."

He was a learned king, and a good judge of men's ability, with the power of turning that ability to account in affairs of government. Henry died in 1189.

10th John (Lackland), King of England, son of Henry II and Eleanor of Aquitaine, was born in 1167. It was he from whom the Barons of England obtained the Magna Charta, one of the most important documents which make up the English Constitution. John married Isabella d'Angouleme. He died in 1216.

11th Henry III, King of England, son of King John and Isabella d'Angouleme, was born in 1207, and succeeded to the throne at the age of nine. He married Eleanor of Provence, daughter of the Count of Provence. 1272 was the year of his death.

12th Edward I, King of England, son of Henry III and Eleanor of Provence, was born in 1239. He summoned the barons to discuss any matters which affected them, and out of this council grew

ANCESTRY OF THE ROCKWELL FAMILY

the modern English Parliament. His Queen was Eleanor of Castile, daughter of King Alphonso X of Spain.

"No man was more acute in council, more fervid in eloquence, more self-possessed in danger, more cautious in prosperity, more firm in adversity," than this "greatest of all the Plantagenets," who died in 1307.

- 13th Princess Elizabeth Plantagenet, daughter of Edward I and Eleanor of Castile, married Humphrey de Bohun, 4th Earl of Hereford, 3rd Earl of Essex, and Lord High Constable of England.
- 14th Lady Margaret de Bohun, daughter of Princess Elizabeth and Humphrey de Bohun, Earl of Hereford and Essex, married Hugh de Courtenay, Count of Auxerre.
- 15th Edward de Courtenay, son of Lady Margaret de Bohun and Hugh de Courtenay, Count of Auxerre, married Emeline, daughter of Sir John Dawney.
- 16th Sir Hugh de Courtenay, son of Edward de Courtenay and Emeline Dawney, married Lady Maud de Beaumont, daughter and heiress of Sir John Beaumont, Marquis and Count d'Autichamp.
- 17th Margaret de Courtenay, daughter of Sir Hugh de Courtenay and Lady Maud de Beaumont, married Sir Theobald Grenville.

ANCESTRY OF THE ROCKWELL FAMILY

- 18th Sir William Grenville, son of Margaret de Courtenay and Sir Theobald Grenville, married Philippa, daughter of William Bonville.
- 19th Thomas Grenville, son of Sir William Grenville and Philippa Bonville, married Elizabeth, the sister of Sir Theobald Georges.
- 20th Sir Thomas Grenville, of Stow, son of Thomas Grenville and Elizabeth Georges, married Elizabeth Gilbert.
- 21st Roger Grenville, son of Sir Thomas Grenville and Elizabeth Gilbert, married Margaret, the daughter of Richard Witleigh.
- 22nd Annye Grenville, the daughter of Roger Grenville and Margaret Witleigh, married John Drake, Esq., High Sheriff of Devon.
- 23rd Robert Drake, son of Annye Grenville and John Drake, Esq., married Elizabeth, daughter of Humphrey Prideaux, Esq.
- 24th William Drake, son of Robert Drake and Elizabeth Prideaux, married Philippa Dennys. The Grenvilles and Drakes were related to the famous and daring sea-captain, Sir Francis Drake, who fought so many gallant battles for Queen Elizabeth. In company with the Grenvilles and Drakes the Rockwells went on voyages of exploration and conquest with Sir Francis Drake.

ANCESTRY OF THE ROCKWELL FAMILY

- 25th John Drake, son of William Drake and Philippa Dennys, married Elizabeth Rogers, who died in 1681, aged 100 years. He came to New England and settled at Windsor, Connecticut, in 1635.
- 26th John Drake, Jr., son of John Drake and Elizabeth Rogers, married Hannah More.
- 27th Job Drake, son of John Drake, Jr. and Hannah More, married Elizebeth Alvord.
- 28th Elizabeth Drake, daughter of Job Drake and Elizabeth Alvord, was born November 4, 1665, and married Joseph Rockwell, a lineal descendant of the de Rochevilles, Norman barons who went from France to England with the Empress Maud (Matilda of England). This Joseph Rockwell died June 26, 1733, aged 63 years.
- 29th Joseph Rockwell, Jr., son of Elizabeth Drake and Joseph Rockwell, was born November 23, 1695, and married Hannah Huntington, who died in 1761, at the age of 67. He died October 16, 1746.
- 30th Joseph Rockwell, Jr., son of Joseph Rockwell, Jr. and Hannah Huntington, was born March 15, 1715, and married Anna Dodd. He was called Captain Rockwell, having been chosen captain of the first militia company formed in Colebrook, Connecticut, in 1774. His death occurred in July, 1776.



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